

***MINUTES***  
***JOINT SESSION – UATH WATER QUALITY BOARD &  
UATH SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSION (USCC)***

Western Park Convention Center

Vernal, Utah 84078

**September 23, 2002**

1:00 P.M.

**UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

K.C. Shaw	Dianne Nielson
Don Ostler	Ray Child
Robert Adams	Douglas Thompson
Ann Wechsler	Nan Bunker
Ronald Sims	

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF WATER QUALITY PRESENT**

Carl Adams	Rand Fisher
Peter Gessel	Theron Miller
Mike Reichert	

**OTHERS PRESENT**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization Representing</u></b>
Cary Peterson	Commissioner, UT Dept. of Agriculture and Food
Robert Barry	San Juan SCD, USCC
Dee Waldron	Morgan SCD, USCC
Sherie Edginton	Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food
Randy Greenhalgh	Juab County SCD, USCC
Larry Johnson	Rich SCD, USCC
Richard Saunders	Timp-Nebo SCD, USCC
Hylton Haueter	Wasatch SCD, USCC
Bill Rasmussen	UACD Zone 6, USCC
Edward Bench Jr	Duchesne SCD, USCC
Stanley Wood	Fremont River SCD, USCC
Allen Henrie	Upper Sevier SCD, USCC
Sherm Hoskins	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
Nathan Daugs	UACD
Jack Payne	USU Extension
Chuck Gay	USU Extension
Richard Sandberg	Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food
Koy Page	Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food
Roy Gunnell	Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food
Ray Loveless	UACD Zone 3 Coordinator
Jake Jacobson	Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food
George Hopkin	Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food
Skip Nelson	NRCS
Karl Kler	NRCS
Tyce Palmer	UACD Zone 5 Coordinator
David Pace	UACD Zone 4 Coordinator
George Burbidge	Weber Co. Stormwater Manager

#### **OTHERS PRESENT CONT'D**

Kevin Creer	UACD
Jeff Williams	NRCS/RC&D
Val Warnick	UACD
Penny Trinca	UACD Zone 1 Coordinator
Ken Mills	UACD Zone 2 Coordinator
Gordon Younker	UACD
Hal Lemon	UACD Zone 7 Coordinator
John Fitch	USU Facilities Design
Kenneth Short	Utah Dept. Natural Resources/Water Resources
Tony Willardson	Western States Water Council
A.J. Martinez	Bureau of Land Management
Kate Kitchell	Bureau of Land Management

Commissioner Cary Peterson called the joint meeting to order at 1:05 PM and asked for self-introductions of the attendees.

#### **OVERVIEW OF NON-POINT SOURCE CONFERENCE**

Mr. George Hopkin invited all attendees to come to the conference starting the next day. Robby Roberts, the new Regional 8 Administrator of EPA, Denver CO would be keynote speaker. There will be a tour of the Vernal area and a Barbecue dinner.

#### **UTAH'S AFO/CAFO STRATEGY UPDATE**

Mr. Rand Fisher, WQD – UDEQ, reported the progression of Utah's Animal Feeding Operations/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) strategy. EPA has called Utah's plan exemplary and wants other states to follow Utah's lead. There is a total estimate of 3500 animal feeding operations in Utah. The Federal Clean Water Act & regulations require each operation to be assessed & inventoried. There have been about 1500 inventoried in Utah at this time. The deadline date for all AFO/CAFO inventories is April 2003. All of Utah's CAFOs (1000 animal units or more) have been assessed and are in the process of being permitted by UDEQ. Approximately 200 operations have been identified as potential CAFO's, which means there is some problems in water contamination. The CAFO's and potential CAFO's have 5 years to change their operations so water quality is no longer threatened.

Mr. Ray Loveless reported that all most all livestock owners have cooperated with the inventory process and changing they're feeding operations.

Mr. Roy Gunnell reported that there are 319 program money set aside to help livestock operations come into compliance with DEQ AFO/CAFO requirements.

#### **FEDERAL FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION, UT EQIP ALLOTMENT PROCESS**

Mr. Skip Nelson, State Conservationist – USDA NRCS-UT, reported that there is more financial support for conservation in the new Federal Farm Bill than there has ever been over his 30 year-plus career with NRCS. Over \$10 million dollars has been spent this Federal fiscal year (FY02) in Utah through USDA's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Most of that was for water quality improvement projects. There is the potential of there being \$18 million for FY03. Some of the money is for EQIP commitments already in place; the balance will be for new projects. One of the significant commitments

for FY03 funds is for AFO/CAFO related projects. Some of Utah's FY03 EQIP allotted funds will be divided equally among the 7 soil conservation district zones.

Mr. Karl Kler, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs NRCS-UT, reported that the 1995 Farm Bill established the State Technical Committee, which mandated natural resource related federal and state agencies and related interest groups to be invited to be on the committee. The 2002 Farm Bill still has provisions for the State Technical Committee (STC). Although the NRCS State Conservationist still has the final decision responsibility, Skip intends to utilize Utah's STC to provide advise on how to prioritize EQIP funding of state-wide projects. The STC recently met and recommended that local zone workgroups be formed to determine how the money should be spent within the zone. Skip has decided to utilize this method to allocate some of Utah's FY03 EQIP funds. The SCD boards will still convene local work groups for partners and local people to have input into the zone workgroup.

#### **NPS 319 PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Mike Reichert reported that DEQ has received \$16 million since the start of the NPS 319 funding. He showed the breakdown of how funds were distributed between watershed projects, education and ground water studies. A work group within the nonpoint source task force, which is made up of state, federal agencies and special interest groups, advises the DEQ and the Department of Agriculture and Food for funding projects. Most of the funds have gone to Utah Department of Agriculture for on the ground and the management of different programs. FY2003 319 funding will go to such projects as managing small reservoirs, AFO/CAFO assessments and water shed management. Most of the funding in past years has been on agriculture NPS concerns. With the increased funding of the 2002 Farm Bill NPS 319 funding will likely be shifted to other projects such as mining, storm water and hydrologic modifications.

Mr. George Hopkin reported that a questionnaire was recently sent out by Federal OMB to assess the needs for 319 monies. There might be a serious reduction, if not a total elimination of 319 funds for ag related projects. The remaining undispersed FY01 State appropriated AFO project funds have been frozen by the Governors office for now.

#### **TMDL DEVELOPMENT & APPROVAL UPDATE**

Mr. Carl Adams circulated a handout showing what TMDL plans have been submitted for EPA approval consideration in April 2002. Also listed were water bodies scheduled for completion of TMDL's based on a long term schedule but are being petitioned for de-listing based on information gathered during the TMDL process analysis. Utah will have completed TMDL's for, or de-listed 56 of the original 160 total listed water bodies. As part of the 2002 305(b) process 12 water bodies were de-listed with 16 new water bodies added to the 2002 303(d) list. In addition, water bodies that are being focused on for TMDL plan development with an anticipated completion date in 2004 or shortly thereafter but have not been included in the commitment to EPA for submission on the April 1, 2004 deadline (see handout). Approximately 1/3 for the needed TMDL's plans has been completed.

Mr. Don Ostler reported that all Utah TMDL's plans must be completed by 2010. He sees a problem on implementation of plans being put on the ground. He would like to see some nonpoint source money being used to fund some of these projects in the future.

The joint meeting adjourned at 2:15 P.M.